

Application No. 10/805,161
RCE and Amendment
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a porous element on a surface to be stabilized;

depositing a flowable material onto the porous element, said flowable material entering openings defined within said porous element, said flowable material comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric bonding material; and

allowing the flowable material to form a solidified material ~~solidify within said openings, thereby forming the porous element~~ and the solidified material forming a microclimate said surface favorable to growth of vegetation from said surface through said porous element.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing a flowable material is performed after the step of disposing the porous element on the surface to be stabilized.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of fastening the porous element onto the surface to be stabilized before the step of depositing the flowable material.

Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises the step of injecting the flowable material into the porous element.

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Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using conventional seeding apparatus.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material to the porous element.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material into the porous element.

Claim 8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a reinforced fiber matting.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional, cellular matting.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a substantially two-dimensional netting material.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of disposing comprises securing the porous element to the surface prior to the step of depositing.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a porous element disposed on the surface to be stabilized;
and

a solidified fiber matrix material incorporated within the porous element and comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric material;

the system being made by anchoring the porous element to the surface and thereafter injecting the matrix material into the porous element while the matrix material is in a fluid state and thereafter allowing the matrix material to solidify within openings defined within the porous element.

Claim 14. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element is a cellular matting.

Claim 15. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a netting material.

Claim 16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional erosion control blanket.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a three-dimensional fibrous erosion control blanket disposed on a surface; and

a solidified porous matrix material comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric bonding material, the matrix material being bonded to and incorporated within the blanket;

the system being made by placing the fibrous erosion control blanket on a surface prone to erosion without the matrix material being incorporated within the blanket, and thereafter hydraulically applying the matrix material to the blanket while

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the matrix material is in a fluid state, and thereafter allowing the matrix material to solidify within the blanket thereby forming a microclimate favorable to growth of vegetation from said surface through said porous element.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a hydromulch.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a polymeric component.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.

Claim 22. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 13 wherein the matrix material is injected into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.